

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

May 30, 2003 11:35 am

Please Do not allow any further relaxation of ownership rules AND futher concentratrati on of ownership patterns. This will turn radio and television into monopolistic enterprises. The media are already oligopolistic industries with few choices for new entrants into the narrowing field. This action restricts consumer choices, virtually eliminates any meaningful democratic participation and restricts alternative programming and format creativity and choice from media industry participants themselves.

Members of ethnic minority and other marginalized groups (disabled, sexual orientation) are currently ,historically unable to broadcast their own cultural and political messages and will further be unable to do so.

Please do not de-regulate any further. Go in the other direction. Make licenses available to middle and lower class people so that a true , richer democracy can be allowed to flourish!! Allow for low-power fm and am broadcasting to be a lower cost participitory form of broadcasting so

that more voices can be heard!!

thank you
Lawrence Jay Buchalter